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(b) if so, whether the auction was confirmed by the Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) No.

" (c) The sale was not confirmed as some of the ryots objected to the lease of the fisheries claiming full enjoyment over the tank. The question of right over the tank is being examined by the Board of Revenue in consultation with the Government Pleader, Madras."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" May I know how long it will take to complete the examination of the right of these people over the tank? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" As soon as the opinion of the Government Pleader is received, we will take a decision."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know whether the Government have issued any direction that the lease of tanks for fishing purposes should be given exclusively to fishermen co-operative societies? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

Present debt position of Madras State.

* 956 Q.—

MR. SPEAKER :—" As the hon. Member who has given notice of the question is not present, the answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI N. GOPALA MENON : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the present debt position of the Madras State regarding—

(i) open market loans,

(ii) loans from the Central Government, and

(iii) the approximate amount payable as interest on the loans per year?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The outstanding debt of the Composite State of Madras as on 30th September 1953 has not yet been allocated between the Governments of Andhra, Madras and Mysore, in accordance with the provisions in the Andhra State Act, 1953. Based on a rough allocation with reference to the population ratio, the share of Madras in the outstanding debt of the Composite State on 30th September 1953 is expected to be about Rs. 57½ crores.

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Including the loans from the Government of India obtained in the second half of 1953–54, the outstanding debt will be about Rs. 59½ crores as shown below :—

		RS. (CRORES).
(i) Open Market Loans	... ...	23
(ii) Loans from the Central Government	...	36½
Total	..	59½

The amount of interest payable is about Rs. 2 crores per annum.''

Supply of electricity to Karambakkudy area in Pudukkottai.

* 957 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received representations from the public of Karambakkudy in Pudukkottai division of Tiruchirappalli district for the supply of electricity to that area; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—'' (*a*) Representations were received in 1951 from the Village Progressive Association, Karambakkudy.

'' (*b*) The scheme was investigated by the licensee, South Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, who reported that the estimated cost of the scheme worked out to Rs. 2,10,200 with a gross revenue of 7 per cent on the capital expenditure as against 15 per cent generally required. The interested parties were requested to contact the licensee for further action in the matter as the licensee had promised to do the needful. It has been reported that the parties have not so far contacted the licensee.''

Damages to paddy crop due to pest in Kancheepuram taluk.

* 958 *Q.*—SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in the Kancheepuram taluk there has been devastation of paddy crops on a large scale due to pest;

(*b*) whether any report on this has been received from the Collector of Chingleput; and

(*c*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place a copy of it on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' (*a*) Early in November 1953, it was brought to the notice of the Government that paddy crops were affected by pests in the Kancheepuram taluk and also in Madurantakam and Chingleput taluks of the Chingleput district.''